Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 EB-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-20

IGA-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 IO-14 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2440

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EFIN, IN

SUBJ: SURPLUS PROPERTY

REF: STATE 131793

1. SINCE RECEIPT OF FIRST MESSAGE ON SURPLUS PROPERTY/LEND-LEASE SETTLEMENT LAST AUGUST (STATE 159404), EMBASSY HAS VIGOROUSLY PURSUED MATTER, RAISING IT AT FREQUENT INTERVALS WITH MINISTRY OF FINANCE. LATEST CONTACTS WERE CONVERSATIONS JUNE 22 AND AGAIN ON JUNE 29 OF ACTING ECON COUNSELOR AND FINATT WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY NATARAJAN. LATTER SAID GOI HAS STILL NOT FINISHED PULLING TOGETHER ITS OWN DOCUMENTATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS. NATARAJAN THOUGHT IT MIGHT NOT TAKE MUCH LONGER BUT REFUSED TO INDICATE A DEADLINE, AND SAID THAT MATTER WOULD NOT BE WOUND UP BY JUNE 30 DATE PROMISED EARLIER BY JOINT SECRETARY BAIJAGXM NATARAJAN AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT SURPLUS PROPERTY SETTLEMENT IS QUESTION OF SOME URGENCY, AND PROMISED TO BE IN TOUCH AGAIN SOON.

2. WE CONSIDER IT PROBABLE THAT THE GOI'S RECORDS ARE IRRETRIEVABLE AND IT WILL ULTIMATELY ACCEPT OUR RECORDS. WE SHALL AGAIN PROCEED ALONG THIS LINE WITH NATARAJAN'S SUPERIOR, JOINT SECRETARY BAIJAL, WHO IS AT PRESENT ACCOMPANYING FINANCE MINISTER ON A TRIP TO MOSCOW AND PRAGUE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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3. WE DO NOT ENVISION ANY DIFFICULTY WITH FORM OF SETTLEMENT AS SET FORTH IN PARAS. 2 AND 3 OF REFTEL. FOR THE RECORD, EMBASSY NEVER RECEIVED CIRCULAR 175 DOCUMENTATION, BUT WE WERE ABLE TO RECONSTRUCT RS. 14,386,765 FIGURE WITHOUT DIFFICULT AND HAVE ASKED GOI FOR THAT AMOUNT. WE AGREE (PARA. 5 REFTEL) THAT AS US SEES IT, ONLY AMBIGUITY REMAINING INVOLVES RS. 200,000 DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "NET VALUE OF SALES" AND "ACTUAL REALIZATIONS" AS REPORTED IN GOI NOTE OF JULY 1, 1953. GOI HAS NOT YET COMMENTED ON THE ACCOUNTING WE GAVE THEM, EXCEPT TO SAY THAT RECOVERY OF GOI RECORDS WILL PERMIT "VERIFICATION" OF NUMBERS WE HAVE PRESENTED.

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: AGREEMENTS, SURPLUS PROPERTY SALES, NEGOTIATIONS

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

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